

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure to read as indicated herein.

~~The present invention relates to~~ There is provided an optical network element for use in a node of an optical network including a plurality of nodes which are interconnected so as to be capable of carrying traffic between selected nodes, comprising a local network management system including means for building up a supervisory connection between the network element and at least a network element of a further node of the optical network. ~~The invention is characterized in that the local~~ network management system is installed to support an arbitrary network topology and to build up a survivable supervisory connection to at least one predetermined other node of the network so as the network element could be integrated in an optical network with arbitrary topology. An optical network and a method of providing a supervisory network are also provided.